



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Balleve et al.

App. No.: 09/774,814

Filed: January 30, 2001

Title: METHOD FOR MAINTAINING OR IMPROVING THE SYNTHESIS OF MUCINS

Art Unit: 1653

Examiner: S. Liu

Docket No.: 112701-136

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Please enter the following Response in the above-identified patent application.

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on October 1, 2002. The Office Action requires Applicants to restrict the application between one of two groups of invention: Group I (Claims 35-44); and Group II (Claims 45-49). The Patent Office notes that Claims 1-26 and 28-44 are linking claims.

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I (Claims 35-44). Applicants thereby note that Claims 1-26 and 28-44 will be examined on the merits. In addition, Applicants also note that should the linking claims be allowed, the restriction requirement will be withdrawn as to any claims depending from or otherwise including the limitations of the allowable linking claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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